

## **Historic, Archive Document**

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# TIPS FOR GROWERS

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To answer many questions regarding rootstocks in common use and varieties of citrus and avocados for commercial planting, the following information is presented. These are a few simple statements based on common knowledge and no attempt is made to discuss any point fully or scientifically. There are many varieties for both home and commercial use which are not mentioned, and those discussed are the varieties which are being propagated at our nurseries at the present time.

## ROOTSTOCKS FOR CITRUS

**Sour Orange:** This stock is largely used on the heavier and damper hammock soils and flatwoods soils and on practically all soils in the northern part of the citrus belt. It stands more cold than rough lemon stock. It produces a high quality fruit, somewhat higher in both juice and solids, and does not dry out as readily as fruit on lemon stock.

**Rough Lemon:** Used more extensively at the present time than any other rootstock. Adapted to the higher sandier, Norfolk soils. Has an extensive root system. With proper fertilization and management, including the use of the various "minor elements," good quality fruit can be produced. Trees on this stock grow quite rapidly.

**Cleopatra Mandarin:** Commonly called Cleo. It is a popular rootstock for all except wet soils. It produces thin skinned, smooth fruit of high quality which hangs well beyond maturity, without drying at the stem end. Increasing in popularity and use.

**Sweet Orange:** This is preferred by some for either flatwoods or the sandier soils. It produces a smooth, thin skinned fruit.

**Citrange:** This stock is a hybrid of the citrus trifoliata orange and grapefruit. It has the reputation of standing more cold than the other stocks and has a tendency to make fruit ripen earlier. It appears to be a very desirable stock for tangelos.

## SPECIAL CITRUS FRUITS

**Tangelos:** Of all of the various tangelos which have been developed, the Orlando or Lake, the Seminole and the Minneola are the best commercial varieties at present. The Orlando is the earliest of all and is very rapidly increasing in popularity. It ripens in October and November and is followed by the Seminole and then the Minneola. The three varieties extend over a season of many months. A detailed description of these fruits is given in Circular No. 181, entitled "New Citrus Hybrids," published by the United States Department of Agriculture, and may be obtained for twenty cents



by writing the Superintendent of Documents at Washington, D. C. We propagate all three varieties. Our budwood trees were grown from budwood of the original government trees. These tangelos are well worth investigating and will undoubtedly be profitable varieties in the immediate future.

**Temple Orange.** This is a "kid glove" type of orange and is easily peeled like a tangerine. It is of the Mandarin family. We propagate it on sour orange and Cleo stock. Both produce superior fruits, thin skinned and juicy. We do not recommend the Temple orange on rough lemon rootstock.

**Persian Seedless Lime:** This is the only commercial variety of lime recommended for planting in Florida. It is of a deep green color, very juicy and absolutely seedless. It should be planted in warm locations only, since it is more tender than the common orange.

**Meyer Lemon:** For home use only. It is very hardy, standing as much cold as grapefruit and will grow successfully where limes will not grow. It is the best variety for home use in Florida, being very juicy, hardy and ripening throughout the year. Budded on rough lemon, rusk citrange and Cleo stock. It is **not compatible** with sour orange stock. It does especially well on citrange stock.

## STANDARD VARIETIES

### Early Oranges

**Hamlin:** A vigorous grower and ripens in October and November. Bears heavily and breaks color quickly. Sometimes criticized for poor quality and early drying out when grown on rough lemon root. Cleo stock helps overcome this and the proper use of the "minor elements" is especially helpful. It is a good orange on sour orange and Cleo stock.

**Parson Brown:** Very popular in some sections but does not break color as early as the Hamlin. We have a heavy producing strain of this variety.

### MID-SEASON ORANGES

The following are the varieties that we consider the best: Improved Pineapple, Jaffa and Surprise Navel.

**Improved Pineapple:** It needs no description. It is one of the best varieties. Originated near Citra and is widely grown throughout the Citrus Belt.

**Jaffa:** It is very vigorous, is much more hardy than the Pineapple, is a heavy bearer and is becoming more popular all the time. It has the reputation of being a regular and heavy bearer.

**Surprise Navel:** This is the best Navel orange for Florida. It is a good, consistent bearer, of excellent quality and is of medium to large size. It is far superior to the Washington Navel for Florida planting, since it does not become so large and coarse and bears more consistently.



## LATE VARIETIES

Valencia, Reasoner's Valencia and Lue Gim Gong.

**Valencia:** This is the old standby and needs no description.

**Reasoner's Valencia:** This is a very vigorous growing strain, which has a reputation for its vigor and good bearing qualities. It is undoubtedly superior to common Valencia. Compare the trees of the two strains the next time you visit the Citrus Experiment Station at Lake Alfred and note the difference.

**Lue Gim Gong:** A very hardy variety that will hang longer without drying at the stem end than the Valencia. Good quality and juicy. It is our latest orange and quite popular in some sections.

## GRAPEFRUIT

We propagate the following varieties: Duncan, Marsh Seedless, Foster (Pink) and Thompson (Pink Seedless).

**Foster:** Sometimes called Foster Pink. It is a seeded variety of excellent flavor. It is an early and mid-season fruit ripening from November through January.

**Thompson:** Also called Thompson Pink. It is a seedless variety. For the last two years the "Pinks" have sold much higher than the white or common grapefruit and they are becoming more popular all of the time. Watch the market reports from week to week and see the difference in price in favor of the Pinks. Are we overlooking a bet in not planting more?

**Duncan:** Of the common or seeded varieties of grapefruit the Duncan is the most popular variety and we propagate it regularly. It bears quite heavily when given good care.

**Marsh Seedless:** It is too well known to need any description or comment. It is our standard seedless variety and may be shipped from November to June.

## AVOCADOS

While there are more than 50 varieties of Avocados in Florida we propagate the 5 varieties which appear to top the list of profitable, commercial varieties which ripen in the fall and winter months. Named in alphabetical order they are Booth 7, Booth 8, Lula, Nabal and Taylor. In popularity they would probably rank as follows: Lula, Booth 7, Booth 8, Taylor and Nabal.

Avocados are placed in two classes called "A" and "B" type according to the time at which the flowers open and close and the pollen is given off. In Florida it is quite desirable to have both "A" and "B" type trees interplanted, or near each other, since this practice appears to give more uniform and heavier crops than if the trees are all of one variety. Cross pollination appears desirable for heavy crops of fruit. Of the five varieties named the Lula and Taylor are both of the "A" type and the Booths and Nabal are of the "B" type.



Beginning in late October or November and extending through the winter season they ripen in the following order: Lula, Booth 8, Booth 7, Taylor and Nabal. We do not propagate the varieties which ripen during the summer months because of heavy competition of Cuban fruit. There are several other promising varieties that ripen in the fall and winter, which are being studied closely but they have not yet definitely demonstrated how well they will ship nor how popular they will be on the markets. If and when they prove to be as good or better for commercial groves than the above named varieties we will begin to propagate them.

It should be borne in mind that avocados are a sub-tropical or tropical fruit and can not endure as much cold as citrus, hence should be planted in protected or warm locations. Much more care and attention is necessary in growing them during the first two years than citrus and unless a grower is well versed in avocado raising and is willing to give them especial care, he will do well to refrain from planting a grove and perhaps plant a few trees for home use only. Information regarding avocados is published in different Annual Reports of the Florida State Horticultural Society and information is available from the United States Department of Agriculture of Washington and from the Sub-tropical Experiment Station at Homestead, Florida.

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### OUR PREDICTIONS

1. That there will be increased plantings of the Orlando (also known as Lake) and the Minneola varieties of tangelos.
2. That there will be an increase in the plantings of "pink" grapefruit.
3. That growers having blocks of common grapefruit will do well to make replacements of dead or dying trees with Duncans thus getting a solid block of one variety. With increased canning facilities the demand for fruit for sectionalizing will increase.

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### OUR POLICY

To produce uniform trees of the very best parentage or breeding; to care for them in such manner that they will be properly matured for transplanting; to deliver our trees in good condition; to charge reasonable prices for quality trees and render such service that our customers will come back for trees each time when needed and recommend us to their neighbors.

We will gladly send our price list at any time or give additional information when requested.

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# WARD'S NURSERY

AVON PARK, FLORIDA.